

Dear Mr Martin,

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

JUN 22 2007

FCC MAILROOM

6/7/07

I am writing about the budget cuts. VRS

My whole family depends on this.

Sincerely  
Rita Mabe

Dear Mr Martin,

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

JUN 22 2007

6-1-07

FCC - MAILROOM

I am writing to ask you to stop the budget cuts on VRS services. Our family counts on this service to communicate with my sister, Kelly Isaacs, (deaf from birth).

This important service should be given more money, not taking away or cutting. Why is it always the ones who cannot speak for themselves who get the shaft? Deaf persons have a hard enough time in this world. Must we make it harder?

Sincerely

Amey Isaacs

To Chairman Martin,

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

JUN 22 2007

FCC - MAILROOM

I got a letter saying the FCC is cutting  
my Communication Needs. I like Communicate  
the VRS. It is much more Easy to Communicate  
then the TDD. I enjoy Talking to my Deaf & Hard of  
hearing Friends & hearing people including my family  
Too. I hope in the Future the FCC will  
work it out for the Hearing impaired Needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kelly".

June 2, 2007  
59 North Avenue  
Abington, MA 02351

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

JUN 22 2007

FCC - MAILROOM

Federal Communications Commission  
P.O. 15477  
Washington, DC 20077-0836

RE: **CG Docket No. 03-123**


Dear Chairman Martin;  
Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and  
Tate;

My niece is deaf and she needs Video Relay Service (VRS) in order to be able to place and receive phone calls with hearing individuals in her own language – American Sign Language. I am writing to strongly urge the FCC to establish a new stable, reliable, and predictable VRS rate for the next three years. I know that a long-term stable rate will directly impact the VRS services that she relies upon.

Please set a fair VRS rate that encourages VRS providers to **increase VRS access for all deaf individuals through outreach programs, invest in the training and development of additional professional interpreters, and improve VRS technology to provide reliable 24/7 and 911 services.**

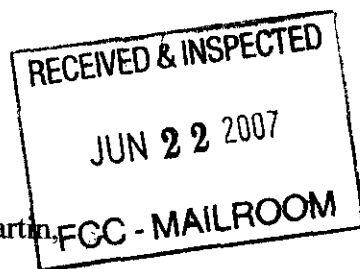
Cutting the VRS rate would severely impact the quality of VRS, which my niece relies on for her communication needs.

Respectfully,



Paul Keating

Monday  
June 4, 2007



Mr. Chairman Martin

**Please do not cut back funding for the Video Relay Service Rate.**

I am deaf and my main method of communicating with the outside world is through electronic means. VRS adds another dimension to my communicating to the outside world. I am seventy five years old and require assistance with my mobility. The VRS allows me to talk to my doctor, optometrist and pharmacist. As an example I can talk to them on a personal level through the VRS.

Again, I urge you NOT to cut back funding on the VRS service program.

Sincerely,

Alvin LaPlante  
33 Christian Avenue H7  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

To: Chairman Martin;  
Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate

I am Deaf and I need Video Relay Service (VRS) in order to be able to place and receive phone calls with hearing individuals in my own native language - American Sign Language (ASL). I am writing to strongly urge the FCC to establish a new stable, reliable, and predictable VRS rate for the next three years. I know that a long-term stable rate will directly impact the VRS services that I rely upon.

Please set a fair VRS rate that encourages VRS providers to:

- ☐ Increase VRS access for all Deaf individuals through outreach programs
- ☐ Invest in the training and development of additional professional interpreters
- ☐ Improve VRS technology to provide reliable 24/7 and 911 services

Cutting the VRS rate would severely impact the quality of VRS, which I rely on for my communication needs.

Respectfully, Fatima C. Gonzalez

Print Name

Email doveorecupie@yahoo.com

JUN 22 2007

FCC - MAILROOM

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JUN 22 2007  
FCC - MAILROOM

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

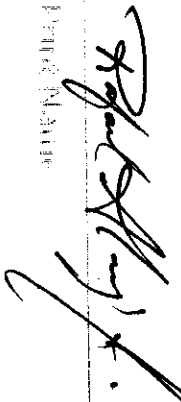
To: Chairman Martin;  
Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate


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Sincerely,  
  
Print Name

Email 



CG Docket No. 03-123

Chairman Martin;  
Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate

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the VRS rate would severely  
the quality of VRS, which I rely  
my communication needs.

*I am a friend of a deaf.*

ully, Danny Marks  
Print Name

Email Unclesam625@yahoo.com

FCC - MAILROOM

JUN 3 5 5003

RECEIVED & INSPECTED



Address:

**Chairman Martin, Please  
at a Fair VRS Rate.**

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 1844 WASHINGTON, DC

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

CHAIRMAN KEVIN MARTIN  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
PO BOX 15477  
WASHINGTON, DC 20077-0836

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

JUN 22 2007

FCC - MAILROOM

NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES



CG Docket No. 03-123

Chairman Martin;  
Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate

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the VRS rate would severely impact the quality of VRS, which I rely on for my communication needs.

I am a friend of a deaf person.

Sincerely, Diane Smith  
Print Name

Email dcs58@nau.edu

FCC - MAIL ROOM

JUN 3 5 5003

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

Address:

**Chairman Martin, Please  
at a Fair VRS Rate.**

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NO POSTAGE  
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UNITED STATES





# State of Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor

Steven Stubbs  
Chairperson  
[www.cdhh.idaho.gov](http://www.cdhh.idaho.gov)  
[maynardw@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:maynardw@dhw.idaho.gov)

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

JUN 22 2007

FCC - MAILROOM

Wes Maynard

Executive Director  
1720 Westgate Drive  
Boise, Idaho 83704

(208) 334-0879 or 1-800-433-1323 V  
(208) 334-0803 or 1-800-433-1361 TTY  
(208) 334-0952 FAX

Federal Communications Commission  
Attn: Chairman Kevin Martin  
P.O. Box 15477  
Washington, D.C. 20077-0836

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

June 1, 2007

Dear Chairman Martin,

The Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is deeply concerned about potential cuts to reimbursement rates for VRS.

In Idaho, there are over 100,000 hard-of-hearing individuals and over 3,000 deaf individuals. Many deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing individuals rely on VRS for their personal and business affairs.

Outreach needs to be expanded, interpreter training should be increased, and enhanced technology should be made available to ensure quality 24/7 and 911 services.

Please be fair to those who are not able to speak on the phone without VRS service by setting a fair rate. The rate should be increased, not decreased.

Regards,

Wes Maynard  
Executive Director

✓  
Cc: Jonathan Adelstein, Robert McDowell, Michael Copps, Deborah Tate



# State of Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor

Steven Stubbs  
Chairperson  
[www.cdhh.idaho.gov](http://www.cdhh.idaho.gov)  
[maynardw@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:maynardw@dhw.idaho.gov)

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

JUN 22 2007

FCC - MAILROOM

Wes Maynard

Executive Director

1720 Westgate Drive

Boise, Idaho 83704

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(208) 334-0803 or 1-800-433-1361 TTY

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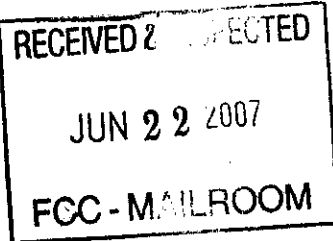
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Regards,

Wes Maynard  
Executive Director

Cc: Jonathan Adelstein, Robert McDowell, Michael Copps, Deborah Tate



RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

TO: Chairman Martin;  
Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate

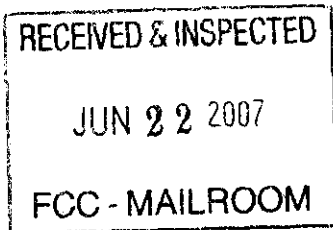
I am a friend of a Deaf person and I need Video Relay Service (VRS) in order to be able to place and receive phone calls with Deaf individuals. I am writing to strongly urge the FCC to establish a new stable, reliable, and predictable VRS rate for the next three years. I know that a long-term stable rate will directly impact the VRS services that I rely upon.

**Cutting the VRS rate would severely impact the quality of VRS, which I rely on for my communication needs.**

Respectfully, Kara Immel

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kara Immel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Student of Scottsdale Community College  
and Arizona State University  
Karbear1123@hotmail.com



RE: CG Docket No. 03-123  
**Federal Communications Commission (FCC)**  
445 Twelfth Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin, Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate:

I am a deaf person and I use Video Relay Service (VRS) to communicate. I was appalled to learn that the FCC staff is intent on drastically cutting the VRS rate, and effectively cutting VRS availability for the deaf. Instead of seeking to limit the number of deaf people with VRS access, the FCC should do everything in its power to make VRS available to more deaf people.

I, along with other Deaf individuals, use these services in both my work and personal life. It is an important way in which I/we communicate with both hearing and deaf individuals. I urge you to do everything you can to make VRS service available to the many deaf people who currently do not have access to this vital, life-changing service.

The VRS rate should encourage the VRS providers to:

- Serve more deaf people, not discourage them from reaching out to more deaf people
- Provide interpreter training programs so that there will be an adequate number of qualified interpreters for VRS and the local Deaf communities
- Provide service and technology improvements, such as the development of new videophone equipment, fulfilling the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandate of functionally equivalent telecommunications services

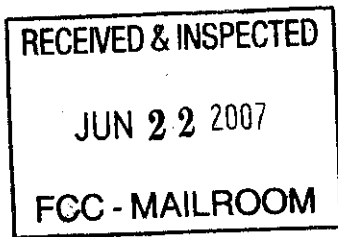
I, along with other deaf individuals, their families and coworkers, depend on VRS and other relay services.

Please stop any VRS program cuts and fulfill the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide deaf people with functionally equivalent telecommunications services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven L. Haffley".





Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
P. O. Box 15477  
Washington, DC 20077-0836

RE: VRS Cutbacks

Dear Sir:

I am the mother of a deaf daughter who takes great pleasure in resolving many of her problems via VRS. Another bonus is her ability to communicate with other deaf friends around the country via VRS. What a joy it is for me to watch her sitting in front of the television; chatting, smiling and fingers flying to exchange the latest news. She also has the freedom to contact interpreters, who enable her to communicate with hearing people when it is necessary to make changes in appointments, get needed information, address an emergency and in general have a feeling of independence.

Being deaf is a major challenge for anyone. Couple that with being legally blind, which is the case with my daughter, Shirley Houlihan, and "maybe" you can imagine the challenges and limitations involved with daily living. VRS is the BEST THING that has ever happened to make life easier for Shirley in her 55 years as a handicapped individual.

Please set a fair VRS rate that would encourage VRS providers to continue this most worthwhile service to the deaf community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanne B. Yeager".

Joanne B. Yeager  
8403 Citrus Chase Drive  
Orlando, Florida 32836

(407) 876-2836

jyeager@cfl.rr.com

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

JUN 22 2007

FCC - MAILROOM

# **Illinois Deaf Ministries**

**Assemblies of God**

**Rev. Lloyd Couch, Director**

**(630) 834-3977 TTY & Fax**

**(630) 834-3977 Voice**

**lecouch@comcast.net lecouch@juno.com**

**907 Chatham**

**Elmhurst, IL 60126**

May 31, 2007

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
PO Box 15477  
Washington, DC 20077-0836

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

To: Chairman Martin;  
Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate

Dear Sirs:

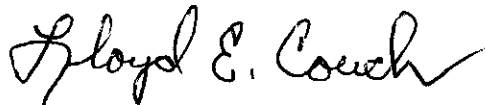
I wish to encourage you gentlemen to set a Fair VRS Rate.

As a pastor to the Deaf, I have watched the Deaf come from "behind the moon" in communication facilities when there was nothing for the Deaf. I have watched as the ancient TTY donations opened the door to telephone communications for the Deaf, and later the light weight TDD's. It was a blessing to see telephone relay operators come into the picture. But now with the VP, the Deaf can talk to each other "face to face" in their own language. With the addition of VRS, they can communicate freely into many hearing homes and offices (family members, business, doctors, medical help). All of these are at their finger tips. This has helped greatly to close the communication gap between Hearing and Deaf. Don't turn back the clock, keep the progress going.

Over 50% of our communications is with the Deaf over Video Phone. Now at 74 years of age, I also am using hearing aids (thanks to the Veterans Administration) and can appreciate even more the need of adequate communications.

Thanks for your time. Please set a fair VRS rate.

Sincerely yours,



Rev. Lloyd E Couch, Director  
Illinois Deaf Ministries

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

To: Chairman Martin;

Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

JUN 22 2007

FCC - MAILROOM

I am Deaf and I need Video Relay Service (VRS) in order to be able to place and receive phone calls with hearing individuals in my own native language – American Sign Language (ASL). I am writing to strongly urge the FCC to establish a new stable, reliable, and predictable VRS rate for the next three years. I know that a long-term stable rate will directly impact the VRS services that I rely upon.

Please set a fair VRS rate that encourages VRS providers to:

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○ Invest in the training and development of additional professional interpreters

○ Improve VRS technology to provide reliable 24/7 and 911 services

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or my communication needs.

ectfully, IRMA TAKELES

Print Name

Email \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

JUN 22 2007

FCC - MAILROOM

Brooke Newell  
19 Fulton Street  
Glens Falls NY 12801

June 1, 2007

Dear Commissioner Copps:

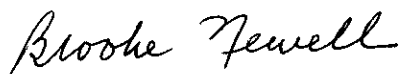
It has come to my attention that the FCC ha proposed a Video Relay Service (VRS) rate reduction. I am writing to let you know that I FULLY SUPPORT this proposed rate reduction.

I have a deaf employee and have installed a videophone in the building for his use. Since it was installed in December of 2006, I have been hounded non-stop by sales representatives from competing VRS providers to have us use their service when placing VRS calls. Each sales representative will boast that their company has the best interpreters and the fastest connection time. They shower me with little marketing gifts such as pens, notepads, magnets, and calendars.

All of this tells me that this is an extremely lucrative enterprise for them. They would not expend this much time and energy on one single videophone user if there were not much to gain. As a taxpayer, I am concerned that these VRS providers are being over-compensated for their service. I think it is time to let the free market influence the cost of this service. Please reduce the rate and see which providers are still interested. I suspect they all will be.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,



Brooke Newell

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

To: Chairman Martin;  
Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate

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**Cutting the VRS rate would severely impact the quality of VRS, which I rely on for my communication needs.**

Respectfully, Rosa Elva Gutierrez  
Print Name

Email 6/5/07

RECEIVED & INSPECTED  
JUN 22 2007  
FCC - MAILROOM

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

To: Chairman Martin;

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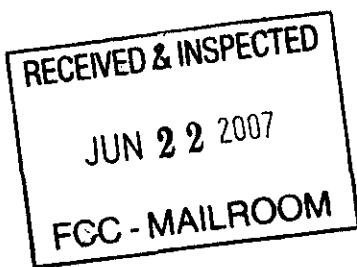
Print Name

respectfully, Melanie Odey

Email

MOXY58@yahoo.com

MOXY58@yahoo.com



Brooke Newell  
19 Fulton Street  
Glens Falls NY 12801

June 1, 2007

Dear Commissioner Adelstein:

It has come to my attention that the FCC ha proposed a Video Relay Service (VRS) rate reduction. I am writing to let you know that I FULLY SUPPORT this proposed rate reduction.

I have a deaf employee and have installed a videophone in the building for his use. Since it was installed in December of 2006, I have been hounded non-stop by sales representatives from competing VRS providers to have us use their service when placing VRS calls. Each sales representative will boast that their company has the best interpreters and the fastest connection time. They shower me with little marketing gifts such as pens, notepads, magnets, and calendars.

All of this tells me that this is an extremely lucrative enterprise for them. They would not expend this much time and energy on one single videophone user if there were not much to gain. As a taxpayer, I am concerned that these VRS providers are being over-compensated for their service. I think it is time to let the free market influence the cost of this service. Please reduce the rate and see which providers are still interested. I suspect they all will be.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brooke Newell".

Brooke Newell



RECEIVED & INSPECTED

JUN 22 2007

FCC - MAILROOM

May 30, 2007

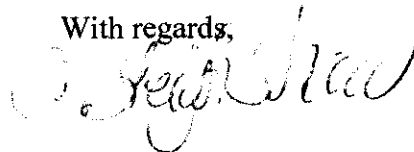
To: Chairman Martin;  
Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate

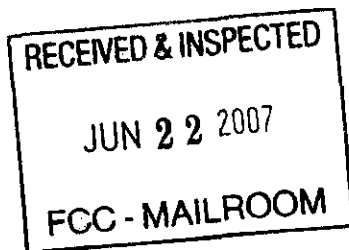
It has come to my attention that there is a consideration to cut rates for the VRS service. I am writing this letter to urge FCC and you to reconsider the idea of making cuts in the VRS service. The VRS service has become an important aspect of my life and has made a large impact with communicating with hearing people.

The VRS service has made a big difference in how I am able to "explain" or to communicate what my intent in my statements. I am deaf and American Sign Language is my native language. Most technical terms are not used with the ASL which is a stumbling block when I am at loss to explain a complex issue when I have to use my TTY. The VRS service have qualified sign language interpreters who are able to understand me (ASL is mainly a "visual" language). The interpreter is able to take what I am saying and translate into technical terms that hearing people can easily understand. I have found this very helpful when talking to my doctor or asking questions when calling a bank regarding an account.

Again, this is the intent of this letter to show you that this service is vital to me and urge FCC to ensure there is stability in this essential service. I do not want to have a similar issue with the 911 service where it might have some "quality" issues due to up and downs in budget cycles. Thank you for the attention to this matter.

With regards,





Christy Hughes  
71 Glenwood Avenue  
Queensbury, NY 12804

June 1, 2007

Dear Commissioner Tate:

It has come to my attention that the FCC has proposed a Video Relay Service (VRS) rate reduction. I am writing to let you know that I FULLY SUPPORT this proposed rate reduction.

We have a deaf employee in our building and we installed a videophone for his use. Since it was installed in December of 2006, we have been hounded non-stop by sales representatives from competing VRS providers to have us use their service when placing VRS calls. Each sales representative will boast that their company has the best interpreters and the fastest connection time. They shower us with little marketing gifts such as pens, notepads, magnets, and calendars.

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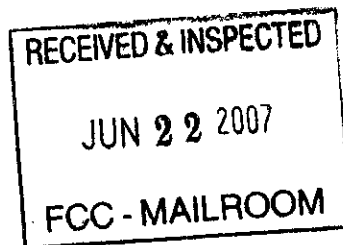
Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christy Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christy Hughes

June 2, 2007  
23 Lewis Avenue  
Walpole, MA 02081



Federal Communications Commission  
P.O. 15477  
Washington, DC 20077-0836

RE: **CG Docket No. 03-123**

Dear Chairman Martin;  
Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and  
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Cutting the VRS rate would severely impact the quality of VRS, which my daughter relies on for her communication needs.

Respectfully,

James Carver-Brown

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Carver-Brown", written over the printed name.